



FSU-WESTERN: In Ukraine, unseasonably warm, dry weather favored rapid harvest activities. Reports from Ukraine as of August 17 indicated that the grain harvest was about 75 percent harvested. In southeastern Ukraine, however, prolonged dryness and periodic heat continued to reduce prospects for corn and sunflowers. In Russia, dry weather in southern areas (North Caucasus, lower Volga Valley, and the southern portion of the Central Black Soils Region) favored harvest activities, but limited moisture for filling summer crops (corn, sunflowers, and sugar beets). Farther north, intermittent showers (10-25 mm or more) fell from Central Region eastward through the northern portion of Central Black Soils Region and into Volga Vyatsk and the upper Volga Valley, slowing harvest activities. Reports from Russia as of August 16 indicated that spring grains and pulses, excluding corn, were about 35 percent harvested. Elsewhere, dry weather favored harvest activities in Belarus, where reports indicated that the grain was about 62 percent harvested by August 17. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in Russia and Belarus, and 2 to 4 degrees C above normal in Ukraine, accelerating summer crop development.